
USAREUR Bulletin

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VOIDING SOFA STAMPS AND LETTERS

Passport-acceptance agents (PAAs) in Germany will void Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) stamps and letters issued to U.S.-citizen civilian employees and family members of soldiers and U.S.-citizen civilian employees under their jurisdiction, using voidance and date stamps to show the expiration, when their—

➤ Passport expires.

➤ No-fee passport is canceled.

➤ Entitlement ends as follows:

♦ U.S.-citizen civilian employees lose entitlement on termination of employment with the U.S. Forces in Germany. The entitlement will be lost unless the employee immediately takes on a new status entitling him or her to a SOFA stamp or letter (for example, the person is a family member of a soldier or U.S.-citizen civilian employee). When an employee transfers to another DOD position outside Germany, the expiration date of the employee's stamp or letter may be extended up to 15 days after the person's departure date from his or her home station to allow time to leave Germany.

♦ Family members of soldiers and U.S.-citizen civilian employees lose entitlement when one of the following happens:

➤ The sponsor's status or eligibility is terminated (for example, expiration of term of active-duty service, release from active duty (including releases under voluntary and special programs), resignation, retirement, or reassignment outside Germany). The entitlement will be lost unless the family member immediately takes on a new status entitling him or her to a SOFA stamp or letter (for example, the family member becomes a U.S.-citizen civilian employee). When the sponsor remains on active duty or with DOD and transfers outside Germany, the expiration date for

family members remaining in Germany may be extended up to 90 days after the sponsor's date of departure.

➤ The marriage is terminated by annulment, divorce, or death. If the sponsor dies, the expiration date for family members remaining in Germany may be extended up to 90 days after the sponsor's date of death.

➤ A child under 21 years old gets married.

➤ A child turns 21 years old and is not mentally or physically handicapped or enrolled full-time in an institution of higher learning.

➤ A child attending an institution of higher learning turns 23 years of age.

PAAs will void SOFA stamps and letters by entering voidance and date stamps across the identification as shown in USAREUR Regulation 600-77 at <http://www.aeaim.hqusareur.army.mil/library/home.htm>. The wording of the voidance stamp will match that of the voidance stamp in USAREUR Regulation 600-77, figure 1. In many cases, the office voiding the SOFA stamp or letter will not be the same office that issued the SOFA stamp or letter.

PAAs outside Germany must follow the procedures agreed on between the U.S. and foreign government officials in their respective country. These agents should contact the servicing staff judge advocate or other designated officials (for example, U.S. Embassy personnel) for information on SOFA matters.

Persons wanting more information on voidance of SOFA stamps and letters should contact the local passport office at the servicing personnel detachment or refer to USAREUR Regulation 600-77. The passport and identification card offices are generally the same office.

PROTECTING PASSPORTS

A passport is an important, sensitive, and valuable document. Passport holders must carefully guard their passports and keep them in good condition. The loss, theft, or mutilation of a passport can cause the passport holder financial and emotional hardships and delay travel plans.

U.S.-citizen civilian employees and family members of soldiers and civilian employees need a passport to cross international borders and to enter the United States. Soldiers need passports to cross the international borders of some NATO countries and most non-NATO countries. Personnel can protect their passports by—

➤ Not leaving their passport—

♦ Unattended in an airplane, airport, discotheque, hotel, restaurant, train, vehicle, or similar place.

♦ In baggage checked in at a transportation terminal or with a friendly stranger.

♦ With a stack of miscellaneous documents and papers.

♦ In reach of packers, children, or animals.

➤ Not carrying their passport—

♦ In an open handbag or purse, hip pocket, or other unsecured location.

♦ With cash, checks, credit cards, or other important identification.

If a passport is lost or stolen, the passport holder will—

➤ Report the loss or theft immediately to the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate and to—

♦ Local police if the incident occurred outside a military installation.

♦Military police (MP) if the incident occurred inside a military installation.

➤Get a copy of the local police or MP report to submit with the application for a replacement passport. Statements from the MP should indicate that the MP notified the local police of the loss or theft.

USAREUR personnel who need information on passports should contact the identification and passport section of their servicing personnel detachment or refer to USAREUR Regulation 600-290 at <http://www.aeaim.hqusareur.army.mil/library/home.htm>.

OATH-PRESENCE REQUIREMENTS

Parents must take their newborn child with them when they report to the servicing personnel detachment (PD) to process the child's birth-registration and passport applications (USAREUR Regs 600-290 and 608-3 at <http://www.aeaim.hqusareur.army.mil/library/mil/library/home.htm>).

The birth-registration and passport-acceptance agent giving the oath at the PD and the parent providing the information on the child's behalf must sign the birth-registration and passport applications in each other's presence. The applicant's presence also is required regardless of the applicant's age.

Parents and personnel at the PD should be aware that one oath-giving agent may not sign for another oath-giving agent. The use of rubber signature stamps is also prohibited.

Persons who fail to comply with oath-presence requirements are fraudulently signing applications. This is a felony.

NEW ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

The following USAREUR publications have just been published and are available only in electronic format in the Electronic Library of USAREUR Publications and AE Forms at <http://www.aeaim.hqusareur.army.mil/library/home.htm>.

➤USAREUR Supplement 1 to AR 11-27, Energy Program, 11 July 2000

➤USAREUR Regulation 220-5, USAREUR Peacetime Stationing, 15 July 2000

➤USAREUR Regulation 600-8-8, USAREUR Sponsorship Program, 18 July 2000

➤USAREUR Circular 190-350, NATO Military Police and Civilian Police Training, 31 July 2000

NEW USAREUR COMMAND MEMORANDUMS

The following USAREUR command memorandums have been distributed as shown:

➤Protecting Personal Information, AEAJA-MC (370-8775), 19 July 2000 (Dist: A)

➤The Role of Commanders in the Army Ideas for Excellence Program, AEAGF-C (370-6279), 28 July 2000 (Dist: A)

Units included in the distribution should have received their copies. Proponent telephone numbers are listed after the office symbols. These memorandums are also available in the Electronic Library of USAREUR Publications and AE Forms at <http://www.aeaim.hqusareur.army.mil/library/home.htm>.

USAREUR CONSIDERATION OF OTHERS PROGRAM

The policy in memorandum, HQ USAREUR/7A, AEAE0, 5 August 1998, subject as above, will continue in effect until 5 March 2001.

WEEKLY UPDATE

To find out which USAREUR publications and AE forms have been digitized each week, personnel should check the Weekly Update section in the Electronic Library of USAREUR Publications and AE Forms at <http://www.aeaim.hqusareur.army.mil/library/home.htm>.

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